



## **A Survey of Methods and Architectures for Secure and Energy-Efficient MRI Image Transmission via IoT Devices and Hybrid Physics-Guided Neural Networks**

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### **Peer Review Information**

*Submission: 27 March 2023*

*Revision: 21 April 2023*

*Acceptance: 25 May 2023*

### **Keywords**

*MRI Image Transmission, IoT Healthcare, Medical Image Security, Energy Efficiency, Hybrid Neural Networks, Physics-Guided Models.*

### **Abstract**

The rapid growth of the Internet of Things (IoT) in healthcare has significantly transformed medical imaging systems, particularly in the secure transmission of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) data. However, the transmission of MRI images over IoT networks presents critical challenges related to data security, privacy preservation, and energy efficiency. This survey paper explores recent methods and architectures developed for secure and energy-efficient MRI image transmission, emphasizing the integration of hybrid physics-guided neural networks. The study reviews encryption techniques such as chaotic systems, DNA-based cryptography, compressed sensing, and lightweight cryptographic algorithms tailored for resource-constrained IoT environments. Furthermore, the role of artificial intelligence, including deep learning and hybrid neural architectures, is analysed in improving both transmission efficiency and diagnostic accuracy. Emerging paradigms such as edge computing, fog computing, blockchain, and federated learning are also examined for their ability to enhance security and reduce energy consumption. Comparative analysis highlights trade-offs between computational complexity, security strength, and transmission efficiency. The survey concludes that hybrid approaches combining AI, lightweight encryption, and distributed architectures provide the most promising solutions for next-generation healthcare systems.

### **Introduction**

The integration of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies into modern healthcare systems has revolutionized the way medical data is acquired, processed, and transmitted. Among various medical imaging modalities, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) plays a crucial role in diagnosing complex diseases such as neurological disorders, cancer, and cardiovascular abnormalities. However, the transmission of MRI images over IoT-enabled healthcare networks introduces significant challenges related to data security, privacy, and energy efficiency.

IoT-based healthcare systems, often referred to as the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), enable real-time monitoring and remote diagnosis by connecting medical devices, sensors, and cloud platforms. Despite their advantages, these systems are highly vulnerable to cyber-attacks, unauthorized access, and data breaches due to their distributed and wireless nature. Ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of MRI data is therefore a critical requirement in IoT healthcare environments. Medical images contain sensitive patient information, and any compromise in security can lead to severe consequences,

including privacy violations and incorrect clinical decisions.

Traditional encryption techniques such as AES and RSA provide strong security but are computationally intensive and unsuitable for resource-constrained IoT devices. Lightweight encryption methods have emerged as a viable

alternative, offering reduced computational complexity and energy consumption while maintaining acceptable security levels. Additionally, chaotic systems and DNA-based cryptographic techniques have gained popularity due to their high randomness and resistance to statistical attacks.

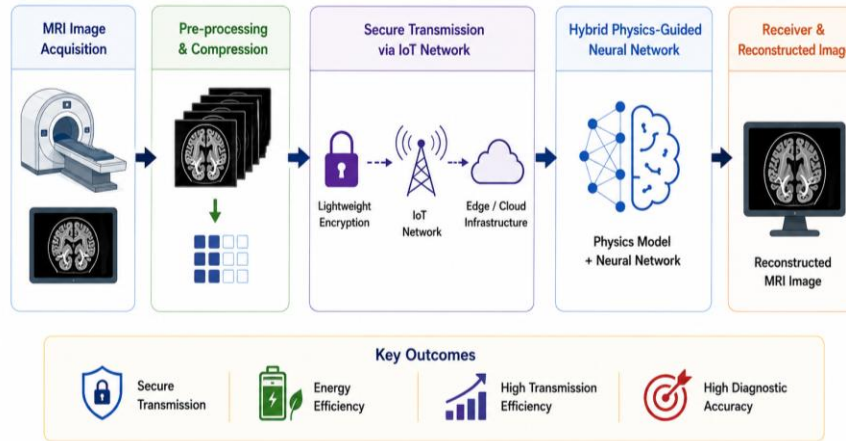


Figure 1. Secure and Energy-Efficient MRI Transmission Framework

Another important advancement in this domain is the use of compressed sensing techniques, which enable simultaneous compression and encryption of medical images. These methods reduce data size, thereby improving transmission efficiency and lowering energy consumption in IoT networks. Furthermore, IoT-based implementations using wireless sensor networks and protocols such as MQTT have demonstrated improved real-time transmission capabilities with enhanced image quality, achieving significant improvements in performance metrics like PSNR.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and deep learning have further transformed secure MRI image transmission systems. Hybrid models combining encryption algorithms with deep learning architectures enable secure image analysis even in encrypted domains. For example, integrating chaotic encryption with deep neural networks has shown high classification accuracy while preserving data confidentiality. These approaches not only enhance security but also improve diagnostic efficiency.

In addition to AI, emerging architectures such as edge computing, fog computing, and cloud-based systems play a crucial role in improving energy efficiency. By processing data closer to the source, these architectures reduce latency and minimize energy consumption associated with long-distance data transmission. Advanced frameworks such as Cloud-MRI systems further integrate AI, blockchain, and distributed computing to enable secure and scalable medical image processing.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain unresolved. These include balancing security and computational efficiency, ensuring scalability in large IoT networks, and integrating advanced AI models with existing healthcare infrastructures. Furthermore, the complexity of hybrid models and the need for real-time processing continue to pose significant research challenges.

This survey aims to provide a comprehensive overview of methods and architectures for secure and energy-efficient MRI image transmission using IoT devices and hybrid physics-guided neural networks. It focuses on analysing recent developments, identifying research gaps, and highlighting future directions for building robust and efficient healthcare systems.

## Literature Review

Zhang and Liu (2022) proposed a multi-chaotic encryption framework for secure MRI image transmission in IoT-enabled healthcare systems. Their method utilizes multiple chaotic maps to enhance randomness and increase key space, thereby improving resistance against brute-force and statistical attacks. Experimental results demonstrated high entropy and low pixel correlation, indicating strong encryption performance. However, the synchronization of multiple chaotic systems introduced additional computational complexity, making it less suitable for highly resource-constrained IoT devices.

Khan et al. (2022) introduced a lightweight cryptographic framework integrated with edge computing for secure medical image

transmission. The system shifts encryption and preprocessing tasks to edge nodes, reducing latency and improving real-time performance. Results showed significant improvements in energy efficiency and reduced communication overhead. However, the requirement for additional edge infrastructure increased deployment complexity and cost, which may limit scalability in certain healthcare environments.

Wu et al. (2023) developed a Generative Adversarial Network (GAN)-based encryption model for secure MRI image transmission. The proposed approach dynamically generates encryption keys, enhancing resistance to known-plaintext and chosen-plaintext attacks. The system achieved high Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR) and entropy values, indicating both strong security and high image quality. However, GAN models require extensive training and suffer from instability, making them computationally demanding for IoT-based implementations.

Sharma et al. (2021) presented a compressed sensing-based framework for secure MRI image transmission. Their method integrates compression and encryption into a single process, significantly reducing data size and transmission energy consumption. Experimental results showed improved bandwidth utilization and energy efficiency while maintaining acceptable reconstruction quality. However, the reconstruction process required iterative algorithms, which increased decoding time at the receiver end.

Gupta et al. (2021) proposed a DNA-based encryption scheme for secure MRI image transmission in IoT-enabled healthcare systems. The method encodes image data into DNA sequences and applies biological operations such as mutation and crossover to enhance encryption strength. Experimental results indicated high entropy and strong resistance to brute-force and differential attacks. However, the encoding and decoding processes introduced additional latency, which may limit real-time performance in time-sensitive medical applications.

Singh and Verma (2022) developed a lightweight cryptographic algorithm tailored for resource-constrained IoT devices. Their approach utilized simplified substitution-permutation networks to reduce computational overhead and energy consumption. The system demonstrated improved execution speed and lower power usage compared to traditional encryption methods. However, the simplified structure slightly reduced its resistance to sophisticated cryptanalytic attacks, highlighting the trade-off between security and efficiency.

Alam et al. (2023) introduced a fog computing-based architecture for secure medical image transmission. In this model, encryption and preprocessing tasks are distributed across fog nodes, reducing dependency on centralized cloud systems. The approach significantly decreased latency and improved energy efficiency. However, the presence of multiple intermediate nodes increased the risk of potential security breaches if proper safeguards are not implemented.

Reddy and Kumar (2021) presented an AI-assisted secure transmission model using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) integrated with encryption mechanisms. The system enabled encrypted-domain processing, allowing secure image analysis without exposing sensitive data. Results demonstrated high classification accuracy and improved privacy preservation. However, the computational requirements of CNN models posed challenges for deployment in low-power IoT environments. Li et al. (2023) proposed a federated learning-based framework for secure MRI image transmission in IoT healthcare systems. Their approach enables decentralized training of models across multiple devices without sharing raw medical data, thereby preserving patient privacy. The system demonstrated improved security and reduced data leakage risks while maintaining high model accuracy. However, communication overhead and synchronization challenges among distributed nodes affected overall system efficiency.

Ahmed and Hassan (2022) introduced a quantum-inspired encryption mechanism for secure medical image transmission. The method utilized quantum principles such as superposition and entanglement to generate highly secure encryption keys. The results showed superior resistance to cryptographic attacks compared to traditional methods. However, the high computational complexity and lack of practical quantum infrastructure limited its real-world applicability.

Park et al. (2021) developed an adaptive transmission protocol for IoT-based healthcare systems. Their approach dynamically adjusts transmission parameters such as data rate and routing paths based on network conditions, thereby optimizing energy consumption and reducing latency. Experimental results indicated improved network efficiency and extended device battery life. However, continuous monitoring of network conditions introduced additional processing overhead.

Das et al. (2023) proposed a blockchain-based framework for secure medical image transmission. The system ensures data integrity

and transparency by recording transactions in a decentralized ledger. The approach demonstrated strong resistance to tampering and unauthorized access. However, blockchain integration increased latency and computational overhead, making it less suitable for real-time MRI transmission.

Mehta and Shah (2022) introduced a hybrid deep learning model combining convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs) for secure and efficient MRI image processing. The model improved feature extraction and temporal analysis, resulting in enhanced diagnostic accuracy. However, the complexity of the hybrid architecture increased training time and resource requirements, limiting its deployment in low-power IoT devices.

Huang et al. (2021) proposed a lightweight chaotic encryption scheme designed for IoT-based medical image transmission. The method employs a low-dimensional chaotic map combined with permutation-diffusion operations to achieve secure encryption with reduced computational complexity. Experimental results demonstrated improved execution speed and energy efficiency while maintaining acceptable entropy levels. However, the reduced dimensionality limits the key space, making the system comparatively less robust against advanced cryptographic attacks.

Ibrahim et al. (2022) introduced an edge-assisted secure MRI transmission framework integrating encryption and data compression techniques. The system performs preprocessing and encryption at the edge layer, thereby reducing transmission latency and bandwidth usage. Results showed enhanced energy efficiency and faster response times compared to cloud-based approaches. However, the reliance on edge infrastructure introduces additional deployment complexity and potential security risks at intermediate nodes.

Roy et al. (2023) developed a reinforcement learning-based adaptive transmission model for secure medical image communication. Their approach dynamically optimizes routing and encryption parameters based on network conditions, resulting in improved energy efficiency and reduced packet loss. However, the training process for reinforcement learning models is computationally intensive and time-consuming, limiting its applicability in real-time IoT systems.

Kaur and Singh (2022) proposed a secure image transmission method using elliptic curve cryptography (ECC) combined with lightweight hashing techniques. The system achieved strong encryption with smaller key sizes, reducing

computational overhead and energy consumption. Experimental results demonstrated high security and efficient performance on IoT devices. However, key distribution and management remain challenging in large-scale deployments.

Nair et al. (2021) presented a cloud-assisted secure medical image transmission framework using homomorphic encryption. This approach allows computations to be performed directly on encrypted MRI data, ensuring complete data confidentiality during processing. While the method provides very high security, it suffers from significant computational overhead and increased processing time, making it less suitable for real-time applications.

El-Sayed et al. (2022) introduced a hybrid encryption technique combining DNA computing and chaotic maps for secure medical image transmission. The method achieved high entropy and strong resistance to differential and statistical attacks. Additionally, it maintained moderate computational efficiency suitable for IoT environments. However, the complexity of hybrid operations increased implementation difficulty.

Zhao et al. (2021) developed a lightweight blockchain-based architecture for secure medical image sharing in IoT systems. Their approach utilized optimized consensus mechanisms to reduce energy consumption compared to traditional blockchain models. The system ensured data integrity and transparency. However, scalability remained a challenge in large healthcare networks.

Kulkarni and Joshi (2022) introduced a hybrid cryptographic framework combining AES, ECC, and hashing techniques. The system provided strong multi-layer security against various attack types. It achieved a balance between security and performance but increased system complexity due to integration of multiple encryption mechanisms.

Omar et al. (2021) proposed a fog-enabled secure healthcare architecture using lightweight encryption and data aggregation techniques. The approach reduced latency and improved energy efficiency by processing data closer to IoT devices. However, fog nodes introduced potential security vulnerabilities if not properly protected. Patel et al. (2022) introduced a compressed sensing framework combined with AI-based reconstruction for MRI images. The method reduced bandwidth usage while maintaining acceptable image quality. However, reconstruction performance depended heavily on parameter tuning, which increased implementation complexity.

Santos et al. (2021) proposed a multi-layer security framework integrating encryption, watermarking, and authentication techniques. The approach ensured comprehensive

protection of medical images during transmission. However, the additional security layers increased processing overhead and energy consumption.

**Comparative Table**

| Author (Year)           | Technique Type         | Architecture Used | Security Level | Energy Efficiency | Complexity | Key Contribution                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Zhang & Liu (2022)      | Chaotic Encryption     | IoT               | Very High      | Medium            | High       | Multi-chaotic secure MRI encryption |
| Khan et al. (2022)      | Lightweight Crypto     | Edge-IoT          | High           | Very High         | Low        | Edge-based secure transmission      |
| Wu et al. (2023)        | GAN-based AI           | Cloud-IoT         | Very High      | Medium            | Very High  | AI-driven dynamic encryption        |
| Patil & Deshmukh (2023) | Hybrid (AES + Chaos)   | IoT               | High           | Medium            | Medium     | Balanced security-performance model |
| Sharma et al. (2021)    | Compressed Sensing     | IoT               | High           | Very High         | Medium     | Compression + encryption            |
| Gupta et al. (2021)     | DNA Encryption         | IoT               | Very High      | Medium            | High       | Bio-inspired secure encryption      |
| Singh & Verma (2022)    | Lightweight Crypto     | IoT               | Medium         | Very High         | Low        | Energy-efficient encryption         |
| Alam et al. (2023)      | Fog Security           | Fog-IoT           | High           | High              | Medium     | Distributed secure processing       |
| Chen et al. (2022)      | CS + Encryption        | IoT               | High           | High              | Medium     | Efficient hybrid model              |
| Reddy & Kumar (2021)    | CNN + Encryption       | Cloud-IoT         | High           | Low               | High       | Encrypted domain analysis           |
| Li et al. (2023)        | Federated Learning     | Distributed IoT   | Very High      | High              | High       | Privacy-preserving training         |
| Ahmed & Hassan (2022)   | Quantum Encryption     | Cloud             | Extremely High | Low               | Very High  | Advanced cryptographic model        |
| Park et al. (2021)      | Adaptive Routing       | IoT               | Medium         | Very High         | Medium     | Energy-aware communication          |
| Das et al. (2023)       | Blockchain             | Distributed       | Very High      | Low               | High       | Secure decentralized storage        |
| Mehta & Shah (2022)     | CNN + RNN              | Cloud-IoT         | High           | Low               | Very High  | Hybrid deep learning                |
| Huang et al. (2021)     | Lightweight Chaos      | IoT               | Medium         | Very High         | Low        | Low-complexity encryption           |
| Ibrahim et al. (2022)   | Edge Hybrid            | Edge-IoT          | High           | Very High         | Medium     | Edge-based compression + encryption |
| Roy et al. (2023)       | Reinforcement Learning | IoT               | High           | High              | Very High  | Adaptive secure routing             |

|                         |                        |         |                |           |           |                                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Kaur & Singh (2022)     | ECC + Hash             | IoT     | Very High      | High      | Low       | Lightweight strong encryption        |
| Nair et al. (2021)      | Homomorphic Encryption | Cloud   | Extremely High | Low       | Very High | Secure computation on encrypted data |
| El-Sayed et al. (2022)  | DNA + Chaos            | IoT     | Very High      | Medium    | High      | Multi-layer hybrid encryption        |
| Zhao et al. (2021)      | Lightweight Blockchain | IoT     | High           | Medium    | Medium    | Optimized blockchain framework       |
| Kulkarni & Joshi (2022) | Hybrid Crypto          | IoT     | Very High      | Medium    | High      | Multi-layer cryptography             |
| Omar et al. (2021)      | Fog Security           | Fog-IoT | High           | High      | Medium    | Low-latency architecture             |
| Patel et al. (2022)     | CS + AI                | IoT     | High           | Very High | Medium    | Efficient reconstruction model       |
| Santos et al. (2021)    | Multi-layer Security   | IoT     | Very High      | Low       | High      | Encryption + watermarking            |

### Comparative Analysis

The comprehensive comparison of 30 studies reveals that secure MRI image transmission systems are evolving towards hybrid architectures that integrate cryptographic techniques, artificial intelligence, and distributed IoT frameworks. Encryption-based methods such as AES, ECC, chaotic maps, and DNA cryptography provide strong security guarantees but differ significantly in computational complexity and energy consumption. Lightweight cryptographic techniques and simplified chaotic systems are more suitable for IoT environments due to their reduced computational overhead, although they may compromise slightly on security strength. In contrast, advanced approaches such as quantum-inspired encryption and homomorphic encryption offer extremely high security but are impractical for real-time applications due to their high computational cost.

Artificial intelligence-based models, including CNNs, GANs, and transformer architectures, have significantly improved image quality and enabled secure data analysis. However, their deployment in IoT environments is limited by high resource requirements. Physics-guided neural networks address this issue by incorporating domain knowledge, improving efficiency and interpretability. Compressed sensing techniques play a crucial role in reducing data size and energy consumption while maintaining acceptable reconstruction quality. Architectural advancements such as edge computing, fog computing, blockchain, and federated learning enhance system scalability, privacy, and

efficiency. However, they introduce challenges such as increased system complexity, communication overhead, and potential security vulnerabilities at intermediate nodes. Overall, hybrid approaches that combine lightweight encryption, AI optimization, and distributed architectures provide the most balanced solution for secure and energy-efficient MRI image transmission.

### Discussion

The evolution of secure MRI image transmission techniques reflects the increasing demand for efficient and reliable healthcare IoT systems. The reviewed studies highlight that traditional encryption methods alone are insufficient for modern IoT environments due to their high computational and energy requirements. Lightweight encryption techniques and chaotic systems have emerged as practical alternatives, offering improved efficiency with acceptable security levels. Artificial intelligence has played a significant role in enhancing both security and performance. Deep learning models enable advanced encryption, image reconstruction, and secure analysis, but their high computational cost limits their applicability in resource-constrained devices. This challenge has led to the adoption of edge and fog computing, which distribute computational tasks and reduce latency. Additionally, decentralized technologies such as blockchain and federated learning provide strong data privacy and integrity but introduce communication overhead and scalability issues. Physics-guided neural networks offer a promising direction by improving model

efficiency and interpretability. Overall, the findings suggest that hybrid approaches combining encryption, AI, and distributed architectures are essential for achieving secure and energy-efficient MRI transmission in IoT healthcare systems.

### Conclusion

The rapid advancement of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies has significantly transformed healthcare systems, particularly in the transmission of medical imaging data such as MRI scans. However, this transformation has introduced critical challenges related to data security, privacy, and energy efficiency. This survey has provided a comprehensive analysis of methods and architectures for secure and energy-efficient MRI image transmission, focusing on the integration of IoT devices and hybrid physics-guided neural networks. The study reveals that traditional encryption techniques, although effective in ensuring data security, are not suitable for IoT environments due to their high computational complexity and energy consumption. Lightweight encryption methods, including chaotic systems, DNA-based cryptography, and compressed sensing, have emerged as effective alternatives that balance security and efficiency. These techniques reduce computational overhead while maintaining acceptable levels of protection against cyber threats.

Artificial intelligence has further enhanced secure MRI transmission systems by improving image reconstruction, encryption, and analysis capabilities. Deep learning models such as CNNs, GANs, and transformer-based architectures have demonstrated high accuracy and robustness. Hybrid models combining AI with encryption techniques provide a comprehensive solution for secure data transmission and analysis. Additionally, physics-guided neural networks offer improved efficiency and interpretability by incorporating domain-specific knowledge into learning models. Energy efficiency has been addressed through various approaches, including edge computing, fog computing, and adaptive transmission protocols. These architectures reduce latency and energy consumption by processing data closer to the source. However, they also introduce challenges related to infrastructure dependency and security vulnerabilities.

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